

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02192 071110Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2192

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ZA, US

SUBJ: SOGHOIAN CASE

REF: STATE 214844, LUSAANKA 2013

1. JOSEPH MEMBE, MEMBER OF STATE HOUSE STAFF WHO ACCCOMPANIED ARNOLD MISIYA FOR LATE OCTOBER CONSULTATIONS IN DEPARTMENT AND JUSTICE, ASKED DCM TO MEET HIM TODAY CONCERNING THE SOGHOIAN CASE. REFERRING TO CHARGE'S MEETING NOV 6 WITH MISIYA, MEMBE'S CONCERN WAS WITH RETURN TO GRZ OF PROPERTY SEIZED AT TIME OF SOGHOIAN ARREST. APPEARS HE GAINED IMPRESSION WHILE IN WASHINGTON THAT DISMISSAL OF GRAND JURY EXAMINING CASE WAS ONLY A FEW WEEKS OFF AND AT THAT TIME IT POSSIBLE SEIZED PROPERTY WOULD BE RELEASED WITHOUT NECESSITY GOING THROUGH FORMALITIES AGREED UPON IN OCTOBER.

2. MEMBE ALSO INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHAT PARTICULAR PIECES OF EVIDENCE ARE BASIS FOR SINGLE INDICTMENT SO FAR BROUGHT AGAINST SOGHOIAN BY GRAND JURY. HE SUGGESTED EVIDENCE IS NOT AMONG ANY OF THE ITEMS SEIZED AT TIME OF SOGHOIAN ARREST.

3. MEMBE STRESSED THERE NO THOUGHT OF TRYING TO CIRCUMVENT UNDERSTANDING REACHED IN WASHINGTON BUT IT SEEMED TO HIM WHOLLY UNNECESSARY FOLLOW THOSE AGREED PROCEDURES IF GRAND JURY HAD BEEN DISMISSED AND SEIZED PROPERTY COULD BE RELEASED AS NO LONGER REQUIRED AS POSSIBLE EVIDENCE. HE ALSO SAID INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE INVOLVEMENT POSED NO PROBLEM SINCE IT BASED ON MISUNDERSTANDING WHICH CAN BE READILY CORRECTED.

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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 02192 071110Z

4. IN COURSE CONVERSATION, DCM SUGGESTED THAT ZAMBIA CHARGE IN

WASHINGTON, FERDINAND MWANZA, AND SOGHOIAN'S ATTORNEYS COULD PROVIDE CLARIFICATION HE SEEKING. MEMBE REPLIED THAT HE WOULD PREFER TO "HAVE IT FROM HORSE'S MOUTH." AS FAR AS ATTORNEYS CONCERNED GRZ HAD NO ASSOCIATION WITH THEM; THEY RETAINED BY SOGHOIAN PERSONALLY WITHOUT GRZ INVOLVEMENT IN ANY WAY.

5. AT THAT POINT MEMBE SAID HE WISHED EMPHASIZE HIS INQUIRY "INFORMAL" AND, THEREFORE, HE DID "NOT SPEAK WITH FULL OFFICIAL SANCTION." WHEN IT NOTED PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR MARK CHONA HAD HANDLED MATTER IN PAST, MEMBE SAID HE WOULD INFORM CHONA OF POINTS HE HAD RAISED AND CHONA WOULD BE APPROPRIATE CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION THOSE QUESTIONS.

6. SOGHOIAN CASE SENSITIVE ENOUGH WITHOUT INTERJECTION INDEPENDENT UNSANCTIONED APPROACH BY MEMBE. UNLESS MEMBE HAS REASON ATTEMPT COVER HIMSELF IN SOME WAY, HOWEVER, IT HARDLY CREDIBLE HE ACTING ON OWN AND SUSPECT THIS WAS EFFORT SOUND US OUT IN PRELIMINARY INFORMAL WAY. DCM MADE IT CLEAR WE HAVE NO INTENTION FOLLOW UP WITH HIM AND MATTER SHOULD BE HANDLED AT CHONA LEVEL. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT ABLE PROVIDE CONCERNING QUESTIONS AND SUPPOSITIONS RAISED BY MEMBE FOR RESPONSE IF AND WHEN CHONA RAISES THEM.

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